

FOREWORD

The Framework Report, is one element in the continuing program of planning for Montana's water and related land resources. The overall planning program is being conducted by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) in cooperation with other state, federal, and local organizations and private groups for the use of persons in the public and private sectors.

The Framework Report, being prepared in three volumes, is not intended to fulfill all the objectives of Montana's complete long-range planning program. Rather, it will present a generalized state-wide overview of Montana's present water and related land resources situation, including discussions of present water use, problems and needs, trends and opportunities, legal and institutional considerations, and needed action. The report will define the process of in-basin plan formulation and set the stage for the early study of problem areas. It is comprehensive in that the entire geographical area of the state and all anticipated types of water uses have been considered in its preparation.

Certain data, assumptions, and procedures were adopted from other related studies. Much of the data presented, however, has never before been published and is the result of several years' work in the water planning field.

Volume One, "Part One" identifies the legal authority for river basin planning in Montana, discusses previous state-wide planning activities, describes the present status of the water plan and regional water planning efforts, and presents the planning methodology and a statement about the final plan. "Part Two" describes the water and related land resources of Montana.

Volume Two will discuss present water and related resource uses, make projections of future use, and discuss existing problems and future needs within eleven functional areas including municipal, industrial, rural domestic, livestock, irrigation, and energy water use; water quality; fish and wildlife; outdoor recreation; flood damage reduction; and related land use.

Volume Three, "Part One" will address the many legal and institutional considerations of water planning in Montana and, in "Part Two," will draw a number of general conclusions and make recommendations based on the material presented in the previous volumes.

The Department recognizes the efforts both of those within the Water Resources Division and of others who have contributed to preparing **The Framework Report**:

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSES

Montana's water and related land resources can provide current and future generations with a quality environment in which to live, work, and relax. It is the state's concern that resources be managed in an orderly manner to enhance this quality environment, and it is largely through resource planning that this can be accomplished.

In determining the optimum utilization of water resources, it is necessary to understand the current water resource situation, the land uses that affect the quantity and quality of the water, and the effect of water availability on potential land use. The general purpose of this and subsequent framework study publications is to provide necessary background information, as well as a broad conceptual framework for the development of an overall plan for the efficient utilization of the water and related land resources of the state of Montana. It is anticipated that this framework study will act as a guide to federal, state, local, and private entities engaged in the planning, design, construction, and operation of resource development projects in Montana and in studying the future use of all Montana's water and related land resources.

The specific purposes for which **The Framework Report** was written include:

1. To explain state-wide water planning in Montana, including a discussion of the criteria and methodology for water planning and a history of past procedures in state water planning activities.
2. To define the overall, ongoing, and "final" objectives of Montana's State Water Plan.
3. To present Montana's water and related land resources, including a discussion of consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water.
4. To evaluate current water management, with specific attention to those problem areas where solutions are urgently needed and informational gaps exist.
5. To identify both the more detailed studies required to increase knowledge of Montana's resource base and the specific project studies required for the most efficient use of the state's resources.
6. To develop a process for future water planning and the undertaking of additional data collection, research, river basin plans, and special studies.
7. To discuss the possible need for changes in laws, policies, and administrative arrangements.

It is anticipated that **The Framework Report** can be used in two contexts. First, it can serve as a reference for legislators, government officials, individuals, and organizations interested in existing conditions governing the availability, use, and management of water within the state. Second, it can be used in comprehensive river basin planning as a guide regarding approaches to solving short- and long-term water problems.

INVOLVED AGENCIES AND GROUPS

Many state, federal, and private agencies and groups have become an integral part of the state water planning program and will, as water and related land resource planning continues, become more and more involved in the development of alternatives and the making of decisions. Listed below are many of these agencies and groups.

1. United States Agencies:

Army Corps of Engineers
Dept. of Agriculture
 Agricultural Research Service
 Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
 Economic Research Service
 Farmers' Home Administration
 Forest Service
 Soil Conservation Service
 Statistical Reporting Service
Dept. of Commerce
 Bureau of Census
 National Weather Service
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Dept. of Interior
 Bonneville Power Administration
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Bureau of Land Management
 Bureau of Mines and Geology
 Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Geological Survey
 National Park Service
 Office of Water Research and Technology
Dept. of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Power Commission
National Marine Fisheries Service

2. River Basin Commissions:

Missouri River Basin Commission
Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission
Yellowstone River Compact Commission

3. Montana Agencies:

Bureau of Mines and Geology
Dept. of Agriculture
Dept. of Community Affairs
Dept. of Fish and Game
Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences
Dept. of Highways
Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
 Conservation Districts Division
 Energy Planning Division
 Forestry Division
 Oil and Gas Conservation Division
 Water Resources Division
Dept. of State Lands
Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology
Montana State University
University of Montana

4. Other Groups:

Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Project
Bitter Root RC&D Project
Conservation Districts
County Commissioners
County Planning Offices
Economic Development Association of Eastern Montana
Grazing Districts
Headwaters RC&D Project
Irrigation Districts
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Water Development Association
Montana Woolgrowers Association
Regional Planning Association of Western Montana
South-Central Montana Development Federation
Tribal Councils
Water Users Associations